

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /090 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8301

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS LONDON 19360

MASERU FOR SCHAUFLE

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, DECEMBER 1

1. PRESS COVERAGE TODAY WAS CHIEFLY ON THE EXPECTED
ARRIVAL IN GENEVA OF THE GUERRILLA LEADERS--AN EVENT EX-
PECTED TO HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE CONFERENCE AND
TO GIVE MUGABE TROUBLE.

2. FINANCIAL TIMES GENEVA CORRESPONDENT DAVID EGLI:
"THE GULF BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE POLITICIANS AT THE
RHODESIA CONFERENCE WIDENED STILL FURTHER (YESTERDAY) AS
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BOTH SIDES PUBLICLY DECLARED HARDENED POSITIONS ON THE

FORMATION OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT...."

3. TIMES GENEVA CORRESPONDENT ALAN MCGREGOR: "THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE RAPIDLY APPROACHED ITS NEXT MAIN STICKING POINT (YESTERDAY) WITH THE...PATRIOTIC FRONT PROPOSING AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE CLEARLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE SMITH REGIME'S IDEAS."

4. GUARDIAN GENEVA CORRESPONDENT JAMES MACMANUS: "IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GUERRILLA LEADERS, WHO WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR ZANU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FEEL THAT THE MUGABE-NKOMO PATRIOTIC FRONT SCORED A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN SQUEEZING CONCESSIONS FROM MR. RICHARD OVER THE TIMETABLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. THEY SEEM DETERMINED TO PUSH FOR A HARD LINE DURING DISCUSSIONS ON THE CHARACTER OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT."

5. DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENT DAVID ADAMSON IN GENEVA "THE GUERRILLAS ARE NOW SPLIT INTO A NUMBER OF FACTIONS AND THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF HEAVY CASUALTIES IN FIGHTING AMONG THEM. THERE IS A RISK FOR MR. MUGABE THAT AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO REPLACE HIM AND THERE ARE THOUGHT TO BE AT LEAST THREE CONTENDERS FOR HIS POST. ALTHOUGH THE TROUBLES WITHIN THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT REFLECT PERSONAL RIVALRIES THERE HAS ALSO BEEN STRONG OPPOSITION TO MR. MUGABE'S HANDLING OF THE PROTRACTED SQUABBLE OVER THE SETTING OF A DATE FOR RHODESIA'S INDEPENDENCE."

ARMSTRONG

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